

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE TOWN OF COLLINS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR  
120TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2012*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize The Town of Collins Fire Department on the occasion of their 120th anniversary.

On September 29, 1892, the Town of Collins residents took the initiative to fill a community need and formed their own fire department made up of 26 men led by H.F. Clark. These men operated with minimal equipment, comprising of one hand drawn pumper. The Collins Center Volunteers didn't have a fire house or regular meetings at the time and stored their pumper in the barn of D.W. Wood. But in 1902, the barn burned and the men acted by converting the former wagon shop of John Auwerter into a fire hall and town jail and thus, the Collins Center Volunteers finally had a home. The members hosted several meetings and the fire company became much like a social club for the men in town.

In 1922 the Collins Center Volunteers purchased their first horse-drawn gasoline engine for \$750.00 which helped them cover the extensive area. But even with new equipment, it was decided that the area was too great a challenge to cover for these men. So on April 21, 1925, the Collins Fire Company was formed, and they drastically reduced their coverage area while increasing fire protection.

The transformation of the Fire Department continued as the Collins and Collins Center Fire Companies merged to become the Town of Collins Fire District along with the merge the Board of Fire Commissioners was created. The Fire Department would hold annual fundraisers to increase their budget and build their Department.

Today, the firefighters train in numerous areas including firefighting pump operation, water supply, forestry fire, incident command, auto extrication, and search and rescue operations. The Fire Department has truly evolved over the years, and it could not have happened without the strong backing of such a vibrant, hard working community.

It is with great pleasure that I stand today to honor the Town of Collins Fire Department on their 120th anniversary of serving and protecting the community. The Collins Center Volunteer Fire Company has consistently answered the call to service, whether as volunteers or as active reservists. It is my privilege to join with this fine organization on the evening of Saturday, January 21, 2012 and recognize the unwavering service of the Town of Collins Fire Company.

CHARLIE BARR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the exceptional service and leadership of Charles L. Bar III on his retirement from a long and successful career in Clay County, Missouri government.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Charlie served as Athletic Supervisor for the St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department and was responsible for the management of numerous Buchanan county amenities and projects. In 1987, he became Clay County's Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites, and supervised the enhancement and construction of new recreational facilities. He also oversaw countless special functions, from races and concerts to historical site events.

More recently, Charlie served as Assistant County Administrator, handling the oversight of purchasing activities and staff, and then became the overall Director of Parks and Recreation. There, he expertly managed over 5,000 acres of park land, 34 miles of trail, a 7200-acre lake, and a large staff dedicated to assisting Clay County citizens and maintaining the county's public spaces. Finally, having spent the past few months as Interim County Administrator, Charlie retires after 34 years of outstanding service.

Charlie's hard work has not gone unrecognized. A member of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, Charlie received the Fellow Award, the Association's highest honor. He has also received Mizzou's Eye of the Tiger alumni award and numerous recognitions from the YMCA, the city of St. Joseph, and Clay County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Charlie Barr for his dedicated service to the people of Clay County. I know Charlie's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

**BLACK JANUARY**

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2012*

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I note that January 20 marked the 22nd anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan.

On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. As a result of this violent crackdown on the Azerbaijani people

more than 130 innocent civilians died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and many more were missing. This event remained in the history and in the minds of all the citizens as "Black January".

This attack was an attempt to stop the independence movement that was gaining momentum in Azerbaijan and to rescue the totalitarian regime, the rule of Communist Party, and the whole Soviet Union. However, this invasion produced the opposite result. It further inflamed the national movement for independence in Azerbaijan and other Republics of the Soviet Union. In a resolution on January 22, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR declared that the decree used by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to impose emergency rule in Baku and military deployment constituted an act of aggression. This event is seen as the rebirth of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Popular pressure led the country to break away from Soviet rule and declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States was among the first nations to recognize independence of this young country. It established diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan on February 28, 1992, and opened an embassy in Baku in March of that year.

Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with sustainable economic growth and developing democratic institutions. The United States and Azerbaijan are cooperating on a broad range of issues and share a common vision for the future of the region and beyond.

I encourage my colleagues to join with me today in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

**THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE  
V. WADE**

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2012*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 39th anniversary of the monumental court decision *Roe v. Wade*.

Since legalizing abortion in 1973, approximately 50 million abortions have been performed in the United States alone. Just today, over 4,000 babies will be aborted and over the course of 2012—1.4 million children in the United States will not be granted life.

Mr. Speaker, I am unapologetically pro-life and am proud to be a member of the Pro-Life Caucus. I believe that the miracle of human life begins at the very moment of conception.

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